



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

News Release



Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture
Denver Federal Center Bldg 67, Room 630 · Denver, CO 80225

September 10, 2010

CROP PRODUCTION - September 2010

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

The **corn** yield forecast is now estimated at 144.0 bushels per acre, 9.0 bushels below last year's final yield, but 4 bushels above the August 1 forecast. The forecast for harvested acres remains at 1,210,000 acres, up 220,000 acres from the area harvested for grain in 2009. Corn production is forecast at 174.24 million bushels, 15 percent above last year's production. The **sorghum** yield is now forecast at 34.0 bushels per acre, 3.0 bushels below the August 1 forecast and 11.0 bushels below last year's crop. Growers are expected to harvest 140,000 acres, placing production at 4.76 million bushels, down 29 percent from the 6.75 million bushels produced last year. The expected area for grain harvest is 10,000 acres less than last year. The **summer potato** yield forecast, at 390 hundredweight per acre, is down 10 hundredweight from last year's average yield and down 20 hundredweight from July's forecast. Growers are expected to harvest 4,000 acres, up 100 acres from last year's harvested area. Production is forecast at 1.56 million hundredweight, equal to the production attained last year. The **sugarbeet** yield is forecast at 28.0 tons per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but 0.5 tons above last year's yield. Production is now forecast at 778,000 tons from 27,800 harvested acres, down from last year's 963,000 tons from 35,000 acres.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at a record 13.2 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the August forecast, but up from the previous record of 13.1 billion bushels set in 2009. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 162.5 bushels per acre, down 2.5 bushels from the previous month and 2.2 bushels below last year's record of 164.7 bushels. Forecasted yields decreased from last month throughout much of the Corn Belt, Tennessee Valley, and Delta. Yields were up from August in the lower portions of the Southeast. As of August 29, seventy percent of the corn acreage was rated in good to excellent condition in the 18 major producing States, down 1 percentage point from last month but up 1 percentage point from a year ago.

Sorghum production is forecast at 376 million bushels, down 2 percent from both last month and last year. Expected area for harvest as grain is forecast at 5.18 million acres, unchanged from August but down 6 percent from 2009. Based on September 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 72.7 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from August but up 3.3 bushels from last year. As of August 29, the sorghum crop had progressed to 26 percent mature, slightly behind last year and the 5-year average. Harvest progress had reached 17 percent as of August 29, compared with 24 percent at the same time last year and 23 percent for the 5-year average.

Summer potatoes production is forecast at 11.8 million cwt, down 10 percent from the July forecast and 19 percent below 2009. Harvested area is estimated at 37,100 acres, down 4 percent from the July forecast and 13 percent below last year. Average yield is forecast at 317 cwt per acre, down 22 cwt from July and 23 cwt below 2009. Forecasted yields are below last month in seven of the nine estimating States due to excessive heat.

Sugarbeets production for the 2010 crop year is forecast at 33.1 million tons, up 2 percent from the August 1 forecast and 12 percent above 2009. Producers expect to harvest 1.14 million acres, down 2,500 acres from the August 1 forecast and down 5,100 acres from 2009. Expected yield is forecast at 28.9 tons per acre, an increase of 0.6 ton from the previous forecast and 3.2 tons from last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield for the United States. Record high yields are also expected in Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming.

Soybean production is forecast at a record high 3.48 billion bushels, up 1 percent from August and 4 percent above last year. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record high 44.7 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushel from both last month and last year.